

CLAIMS

1 1. A handheld computer, comprising:
2 a housing having a first and second elongate accessory slots associated with a
3 left and right sides of the housing, respectively, the first and second accessory slots
4 capable of receiving and accommodating at least one removable accessory device.

1 2. The handheld computer of claim 1, wherein the first and second
2 accessory slots partially enclose the accessory device along substantially a length of
3 the accessory device, and wherein a portion of the accessory device is exposed to an
4 exterior of the handheld computer along substantially the length of the accessory
5 device.

1 3. The handheld computer of claim 1, wherein a bottom of the housing is
2 flared out and acts as a stop for accessory devices inserted into the accessory slots.

1 4. The handheld computer of claim 1, wherein the accessory slots are
2 substantially cylindrical.

1 5. The handheld computer of claim 1, wherein the accessory device is a
2 stylus device.

1 6. The handheld computer of claim 1, wherein the accessory device is a
2 cover device.

1 7. The handheld computer of claim 1, further comprising:
2 an external port in communication with the first accessory slot, the external
3 port having at least one external port contact.

1 8. The handheld computer of claim 7, wherein the accessory device is an
2 input/output stylus device having a plurality of contacts which connect to the external
3 port contacts when the input/output stylus device is inserted into the first accessory
4 slot.

1 9. The handheld computer of claim 1, wherein the first and second
2 accessory slots each include a retaining device for retaining accessory devices.

1 10. The handheld computer of claim 9, wherein the retaining device is a
2 notch which mates with a detent on the accessory device.

1 11. A handheld computer, comprising:
2 a housing including a midframe and a front and back shells, the midframe
3 being at least partially exposed to an exterior of the handheld computer, the housing
4 including a first and second elongate accessory slots associated with a left and right
5 sides of the housing, respectively, each accessory slot capable of accommodating and
6 at least partially enclosing an elongate accessory device along a substantial portion of
7 the length of the accessory device.

1 12. The handheld computer of claim 11, wherein the first and second
2 elongate accessory slots are integral with the midframe.

1 13. The handheld computer of claim 11, wherein a bottom of the housing
2 is flared out and acts as a stop for accessory devices inserted into the accessory slots.

1 14. The handheld computer of claim 11, wherein the accessory slots are
2 substantially cylindrical.

1 15. The handheld computer of claim 11, wherein the accessory device is a
2 stylus device.

1 16. The handheld computer of claim 11, wherein the accessory device is a
2 cover device.

1 17. The handheld computer of claim 11, further comprising:

2 an external port in communication with the first accessory slot, the external
3 port having at least one external port contact.

1 18. The handheld computer of claim 17, wherein the accessory device is an
2 input/output stylus device having a plurality of contacts which connect to the external
3 port contacts when the input/output stylus device is inserted into the first accessory
4 slot.

1 19. The handheld computer of claim 11, wherein the first and second
2 accessory slots each include a retaining device for retaining accessory devices.

1 20. The handheld computer of claim 19, wherein the retaining device is a
2 notch which mates with a detent on the accessory device.

1 21. A handheld computer, comprising:
2 a housing having a midframe, the midframe forming part of an exterior of the
3 housing, the midframe having a first and second accessory slots associated with a left
4 and right sides of the midframe, respectively, the first and second accessory slots
5 being elongate and capable of receiving and accommodating at least one removable
6 accessory device;

7 a front shell coupled to a front side of the midframe; and
8 a back shell coupled to a back side of the midframe.

1 22. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the first and second
2 accessory slots partially enclose the accessory device along substantially a length of
3 the accessory device, and wherein a portion of the accessory device is exposed to an
4 exterior of the handheld computer along substantially the length of the accessory
5 device

1 23. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein a bottom of the housing
2 is flared out and acts as a stop for accessory devices inserted into the accessory slots.

1 24. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the accessory slots are
2 substantially cylindrical.

1 25. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the accessory device is a
2 stylus device.

1 26. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the accessory device is a
2 cover device.

1 27. The handheld computer of claim 21, further comprising:
2 an external port in communication with the first accessory slot, the external
3 port having at least one external port contact.

1 28. The handheld computer of claim 27, wherein the accessory device is an
2 input/output stylus device having a plurality of contacts which connect to the external
3 port contacts when the input/output stylus device is inserted into the first accessory
4 slot.

1 29. The handheld computer of claim 21, wherein the first and second
2 accessory slots each include a retaining device for retaining accessory devices.

1 30. The handheld computer of claim 29, wherein the retaining device is a
2 notch which mates with a detent on the accessory device.

1 31. A method of manufacturing a handheld computer, comprising:
2 providing a housing capable of substantially enclosing a plurality of
3 components;
4 forming a first elongate accessory slot on a left side of the housing; and
5 forming a second elongate accessory slot on a right side of the housing,
6 wherein the first and second accessory slots are capable of receiving and
7 accommodating at least one removable accessory device.

1 32. The method of claim 31, wherein the first and second accessory slots
2 partially enclose the accessory device along substantially an entire length of the
3 accessory device, and wherein a portion of the accessory device is exposed to an
4 exterior of the handheld computer along substantially the entire length of the
5 accessory device.

1 33. The method of claim 31, wherein a bottom of the housing is flared out
2 and acts as a stop for accessory devices inserted into the accessory slots.

1 34. The method of claim 31, wherein the accessory slots are substantially
2 cylindrical.

1 35. The method of claim 31, wherein the accessory device is a stylus
2 device.

1 36. The method of claim 31, wherein the accessory device is a cover
2 device.

1 37. The method of claim 31, further comprising:
2 forming an external port in communication with the first accessory slot, the
3 external port having at least one external port contact.

1 38. The method of claim 37, wherein the accessory device is an
2 input/output stylus device having a plurality of contacts which connect to the external
3 port contacts when the input/output stylus device is inserted into the first accessory
4 slot.

1 39. The method of claim 31, wherein the first and second accessory slots
2 each include a retaining device for retaining accessory devices. -

1 40. The method of claim 39, wherein the retaining device is a notch which
2 mates with a detent on the accessory device.